

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. through 7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently amended)      An inhibitor for the generation of deterioration smell of citral or a citral-containing product, which comprises an extract obtained by extracting semi-fermented tea leaves or fermented tea leaves with a polar organic solvent, water or a mixture thereof, as claimed in claim 7 wherein deterioration smell is caused by p-cresol or p-methylacetophenone.

9. (Currently amended)      An inhibitor for the generation of deterioration smell of citral or a citral-containing product as claimed in claim ~~7~~ 8, wherein said citral-containing product is a citrus-series flavor or citrus-series fragrance.

10. (Currently amended)      An inhibitor for the generation of deterioration smell of a citral-containing product as claimed in claim ~~7~~ 8, wherein said citral-containing product is a citrus-series drink or citrus-series confectionery.

11. (Currently amended) An inhibitor for the generation of deterioration smell of a citral-containing product as claimed in claim ~~7~~ 8, wherein said citral-containing product is fragrances and cosmetics.

12. (Currently amended) A method for inhibiting the generation of deterioration smell of citral or a citral-containing product wherein an inhibitor for the generation of deterioration smell is added in an amount between about 1-500 ppm, said inhibitor comprising an extract obtained by extracting ~~ashitaba~~, semi-fermented tea leaves or fermented tea leaves with a polar organic solvent, water or a mixture thereof, wherein deterioration smell is caused by p-cresol or p-methylacetophenone.

13. (Currently amended) A citral or citral-containing product wherein an inhibitor for the generation of deterioration smell is added in an amount between about 1-500 ppm, said inhibitor comprising an extract obtained by extracting ~~ashitaba~~, semi-fermented tea leaves or fermented tea leaves with a polar organic solvent, water or a mixture thereof, wherein deterioration smell is caused by p-cresol or p-methylacetophenone.